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9. It is by the frontal breadth and in a lesser degree by the maximum transverse breadth that the female skull approaches most closely to the male; it is farthest from the male skull in the basal region and in the face; the forehead is larger relatively to the face than among the male skulls.

"In conclusion, the above researches, incomplete as they are, demonstrate that the female skull has, in relation to the male cranium, a frontal type, as has been shown already by M. Manouvrier, and that the cranial capacity is relatively greater." It is to be remembered that these results were obtained from the study of a brachycephalic series of crania.

Notes. — Dr. R. Verneau (*L'Anthropologie*, Tome IX, p. 2) figures and describes a new instrument for measuring cranial angles and diameters. The advantages claimed by the inventor for this new apparatus are that:

1. It renders measurements comparable by always securing the parts in the same relative position.
2. The projections can be quickly measured which heretofore have been obtained by geometric drawings.
3. Both vertical and horizontal projections can be taken at the same time.
4. All the dihedral angles relating to one horizontal plane can be directly measured.

We have received reprints of two papers by Mr. James Mooney of interest to ethnologists and students of American history. "The Cherokee River Cult" was published in the *Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. XIII. The peculiarly sacred character of the flowing stream to the primitive mind is explained, and a number of formulas used by the native priests when invoking the aid of the river-god are translated.

Reprinted from the *American Anthropologist* of July, 1899, is an account of "The End of the Natchez." Mr. Mooney devotes himself especially to the history of the tribe subsequent to the year 1730, when they were broken and dispersed by the French. Perhaps twenty individuals belonging to this tribe survive, all living in the Indian Territory with the Creeks.

In the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, Vol. XIII, 1900, is published a paper by Mr. Lucien Carr upon "The Mascoutins." The history and even the identity of this tribe has been uncertain. Mr. Carr shows that they were a branch of the Shawnee division of the Algonquian stock that was finally absorbed by another branch, the Kickapoos.

F. R.

GENERAL BIOLOGY.

Biology of Crystals.[1] — From biology to the structure of crystals seems a far cry, but those who have penetrated farthest in the study of organisms have time and time again come to the borderland of the inorganic realm. Most have declined to go over into the untraveled domain of a foreign country. Professor Bütschli is not one of these. His studies on the structure of protoplasm are the most profound that have been made. They led him to recognize a single fundamental protoplasmic structure, — the alveolar or "foam" structure, — of which the karyokinetic figures are only special expressions. At the time of his early discoveries there were few inorganic substances which were known to have any such structure. Emulsions alone were comparable. Studies of starch, cellulose, and chitin revealed to Bütschli a similar alveolar structure, and now he has continued his researches into crystals of sulphur and certain salts and finds here the same structure. The protoplasmic structure is, then, not something peculiar to living substance, but is probably characteristic of substance in general — at least of changing, forming, growing substance. Moreover, in the forming crystal we have radial lines proceeding from a center, and these are *structurally* like the radiations of the asters — like, because due in both cases to a central pull exerted on an alveolar structure.

The vast mass of the work deals with matters of interest, first of all, to crystallographers and physical chemists — the microscopic details of crystal formation, the polymorphism in crystallization, the determination of the polymorphic form by external conditions. These are matters which will be eagerly read by the biologist also, a few years hence, when the close and fundamental relations between organic development and crystalline development become more generally appreciated.

C. B. D.

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[1] Bütschli, O. *Untersuchungen über Microstrukturen des erstarrten Schwefels, nebst Bemerkungen über Sublimation, Überschmelzung und Übersättigung des Schwefels und einiger anderer Körper.* Leipzig, Engelmann, 1900. Quarto, 96 pp., 4 pls., 6 figs.